

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:**

This is a National Stage Application of International Application No. PCT/JP03/02473  
filed March 4, 2003.

**In the paragraph bridging the third and fourth page:**

The upper gusset 117 has an upper vertical plate 119 and an upper horizontal plate 120. The upper vertical plate 119 is fixed to the vertical wall 102 of the side member 101. The upper horizontal plate 120 is bent from an upper end of the upper vertical plate 119, extends inward in the vehicle transverse direction, and is fixed to the upper wall 107 of the cross member 105. The lower gusset 118 has a lower vertical plate 121 and a lower horizontal plate 122. The lower vertical plate 121 is fixed to the vertical wall 102 of the side member 101. The lower horizontal plate 122 is bent from a lower end of the lower vertical plate 121, extends inward in the vehicle transverse direction, and is fixed to the lower wall 108 of the cross member 105. The upper and lower horizontal plates 120 and ~~121~~122 of the gusset 116 are fixed to the vertical wall 102 of the side member 101 by use of dedicated rivets 123 and 124, respectively. The mounting horizontal plate 114 of the leaf spring bracket 113 is fixed to the vertical wall 102 of the side member by use of dedicated rivets 125 disposed between the upper and lower horizontal plates 120 and ~~121~~122.